

REMARKS:

In the Office Action the Examiner noted that claims 13 and 17-19 are pending in the application, and the Examiner rejected all claims. Claims 13 and 17-19 are amended herein, and new claim 20 is added. No new matter is presented. Claims 1-12 and 14-16 remain cancelled. A Request for Continued Examination is submitted.

Support for amendments herein can be found at least on page 6, line 16 through page 7, line 28; page 12, lines 13-34 and Figs. 2A, 3 and 6 including corresponding text.

Thus, claims 13 and 17-20 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

On page 3 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 13, and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,308,164 (Nummelin) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,557,515 (Abbruzzese) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,381,610 (Gundewar).

Claim 13 of the present application, as amended, recites "retrieving repudiation reasons of elements stored from said database that match elements forming a task to be electronically authorized and a user requesting authorization of said task" and "displaying said retrieved repudiation reasons of said elements stored and retrieved repudiation reasons for the user in association with said elements of the task to be electronically authorized."

Applicants respectfully submit that Nummelin does not disclose or suggest at least the feature of "retrieving repudiation reasons of elements stored from said database that match elements forming a task to be electronically authorized and a user requesting authorization of said task", as recited in claim 13. Instead, Nummelin receives information from project resources regarding the status of current project tasks such as when the current task was started, the progress of the task toward completion and when the task was completed where a person would enter the data regarding the task status and the equipment may report status of a current task (see, col. 6, lines 37-49).

Claims 17 and 18 respectively recite "identifying an element as a check point for review in association with a previously repudiated element of said completed tasks" and "identifying an object among the contents of the first task in association with an object of said second task

previously developed by the user and reviewed by a reviewer.”

Nummelin does not teach or suggest determining whether an element or object of a previously reviewed task “matches” an element of a current task, as taught by the invention of claims 17 and 18. As mentioned above, the Nummelin information received refers to resources of current project tasks and progress toward completion.

Nummelin does not teach or suggest “determining whether elements of a task submitted match stored elements of previously reviewed tasks of a user responsive to submission of the task for review by the user”, as recited in claim 19. In contrast, Nummelin only discusses resources regarding the status of current project tasks.

Abbruzzese does not teach or suggest “displaying said retrieved repudiation reasons of said elements stored and retrieved repudiation reasons for the user in association with said elements of the task to be electronically authorized”, as recited in claim 13. In contrast, Abbruzzese provides a means for prioritizing work and for scheduling various tasks (see, col. 65, lines 29-67). The diary function of Abbruzzese only discusses current tasks such as docketing legal due dates, schedule meetings, set business deadlines and maintain and report certain attorney specific date information.

Abbruzzese does not add anything to the teachings of Nummelin with respect to claims 17, 18 and 19 because Abbruzzese makes no reference to a previous task while prioritizing work and scheduling current tasks. Thus, Abbruzzese does not teach or suggest “comparing the contents of the first task with to determine matching contents of a second task previously developed” (claim 17) and “associating elements forming completed tasks with a user requesting authorization or repudiation reasons with matching elements of a task submitted for review” (claim 18).

Similarly, Abbruzzese does not teach or suggest “determining whether elements of a task submitted match stored elements of previously reviewed tasks of a user responsive to submission of the task for review by the user”, as recited in claim 19.

As mentioned above, the independent claims patentably distinguish over Nummelin and Abbruzzese. Further, as Gundewar merely discusses defining a project planning stage indicating processes associated with major project tasks, Gundewar does not cure the deficiencies of Nummelin and Abbruzzese regarding the independent claims of the present application.

Specifically, Gundewar is directed to indicating whether criteria and inputs have been met or collected as required, where data in the process data sheet may be referenced for guideline by a user (see, col. 5, lines 50-64). Gundewar does not teach or suggest designating "an element among said elements displayed as a check point for review based on a number of said retrieved repudiation reasons for the task and the user", as recited in claim 13. Instead, Gundewar merely discusses checkpoint review with respect to only overall status of a current project.

Gundewar does not teach or suggest providing a reviewer with "a check point to be reviewed" when comparison of the object of a current task matches that of a previously reviewed task, as recited in claims 17 and 18. In contrast, Gundewar discusses providing a project repository module presenting the user with a project task template listing major project under the planning stage.

Moreover, Gundewar does not teach or suggest "**reviewing only elements of the task submitted that match repudiated elements of the previously reviewed tasks** of the user based on said determining" (emphasis added), as recited in claim 19.

The Examiner asserts that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Nummelin with Abbruzzese in order to detect a case needs additional managerial attention and obvious to combine Nummelin and Gundewar to detect when a project fails to meet projected goals.

As is clear from the Examiner's own assertion, Nummelin, Abbruzzese, and Gundewar are directed to managing an order and completion of *planned* events. Thus, the cited references do not teach or suggest the claimed invention of reviewing by comparing elements of a task with that of a previous task.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM:

New claim 20 has been added to recite, "registering... an information code which specifies a repudiation reason if the repudiation was rendered, in a database as an authorization result" and "referring, for each repudiation reason, to a table in which a name corresponding to each information code for specifying said each repudiating reason is set to thereby obtain the name while totalizing accumulated numbers of repudiation cases."

Accordingly, the invention of claim 20 displays "a screen having names of said each repudiating reason in association with the accumulated numbers of the repudiation cases."

The cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the above-identified features including "referring, for each repudiation reason, to a table in which a name corresponding to each information code for specifying said each repudiating reason is set to thereby obtain the name while totalizing accumulated numbers of repudiation cases", as recited in claim 20.

Therefore, it is submitted that new claim 20 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

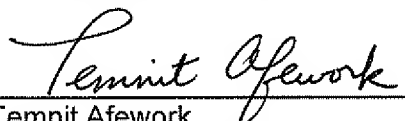
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 
Temnit Afework
Registration No. 58,202

1201 New York Ave, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501